2. REMARKS

Disposition of the Claims

Claims 1-40 and 48-51 are pending and subject to election of species.

Claims 17, 21, 24, 27, 34, and 27 are currently being amended. Support for each amendment is, e.g., stated in the response of July 14, 2003.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean A. Passino

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 45,943

Date

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 CFR § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.